

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
January 23, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Jim Workman, Chairman  
Cliff Pratt, Vice-Chairman  
Rick Griffin  
Virginia Bridle-Russell  
James S. Barrington, Town Manager  
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant  
Ben Moore

**REGRETS:**

Chairman Jim Workman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and introduced those in attendance.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG –** Patrick Cronin led the audience in the salute to the flag.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

None

**II. APPOINTMENTS**

**1 – CHIEF JAMIE SULLIVAN – 2006 PENGUIN PLUNGE**

Rescheduled for next Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Planner Jamie Steffen reported that the Planning Board decided to table one of the three zoning articles they had put forward for the warrant. It is believed that it was the proposed article dealing with "floor area ratios". Mr. Steffen sent Mr. Barrington the four remaining articles (two from the Planning Board and two petitioned). They have been inserted into the warrant. The remainder of the articles had to be renumbered with the deletion of the one that was tabled. Mr. Barrington e-mailed the Board of Selectmen the updated warrant for their review before

printing copies for the public. Once approved copies will be produced so that citizens have a chance to review them prior to the Deliberative Session. It will also be posted on the website.

Attorney Gearreald has prepared memos on two issues. One is dealing with leasing parking spaces on the street at the beach. The other is the license for stairways onto the beach as requested by Mr. Brussard at 1032 Ocean Boulevard.

The auditors arrived last Thursday. It is expected that the audit will be complete by next Wednesday.

The ordinance supporting the parking restrictions around the old courthouse has been verified. If the Board would like to repeal or amend that section, a public hearing can be scheduled for January 30, after which they may take action.

Last Friday, Mr. Barrington spent the majority of the day in Concord at two meetings at the Local Government Center. The first was the Municipal Advocacy Committee. He was briefed on several bills that have been introduced. HB 653 passed the House last week. It would allow municipalities to issue bonds for the installation of broadband infrastructure. There are also several House Bills (1219, 1236, & 1237) that appear to have the effect of limiting NHMA's ability to lobby on behalf of communities. While private industry, unions, political action committees, and the like, continue to draw headlines about abuses of lobbying techniques, the legislature seems to actually be seriously considering making the playing field even more slanted to the disadvantage of the municipalities and their citizens and taxpayers.

The second meeting in Concord on Friday was the monthly meeting of the New Hampshire Municipal Management Association (NHMMA). The program topic of the day was the New Hampshire Retirement System. SB 385 is apparently scheduled for hearing next Tuesday. While much attention has been given in recent years to the rapidly rising costs of health insurance, the local municipal contribution to the retirement system has also seen significant increases. RSA 100-A provides the legal authority for the fund and its operation. As a defined benefit plan, an actuarial study is done every two years to insure that the fund is solvent to meet its financial needs. Because the contribution rate for the employees is set, any shortfall is made up by increasing the employer rate of contribution. This negative impact is compounded by the fact that any "excess" investment income above the projected income level established by the Trustees, is already dedicated to funding "enhanced benefits" funded through the so called "The Special Account", and is therefore not available to fund the shortfall. SB 385 would reduce the number of employee/union representatives on the board of trustees. It is expected to receive substantial opposition from employee groups at the hearing on Tuesday morning. Mr. Barrington provided a table reflecting the recently released projections of the new rates of employer contribution that will become effective July 1, 2007. He also provided the Board with the NHRS Bulletin that includes the information in the table.

#### **Employer Contribution Rates**

	Current Rates	Projected 1-Jul-07	Percent Increase
Group I employees	6.81%	8.74%	28.34%
Firefighters	14.36%	15.92%	10.86%
Police	9.68%	11.84%	22.31%

Mr. Barrington has made arrangements with the Public Works Department to move the Town Clock face to the Webber Antique shop to be restored.

### **Selectmen's Response to the Manager's Report**

Mr. Moore asked when the financial statements would be available. Mr. Barrington said next week.

Mr. Moore also commented on the significant increase in retirement contribution rates.

Mr. Pratt is in favor of having parking restrictions lifted in front of the old District Court House, former Town Hall and along Windmill Lane.

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to hold a public hearing on January 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss amending the Police Parking Only – In Front of Courthouse ordinance as well as the parking restrictions in front of the former Town Hall and along Windmill Lane. **Mr. Pratt SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

### **2 – TOWN REPORT COVER**

Mr. Barrington presented pictures of the infrastructure project and of the District Court House. They were in addition, to the pictures of surfers at Hampton Beach for consideration.

The general consensus of the Board was to use the surfer picture for the front and the picture of the District Court House on the back.

### **3 – BRUSSARD LICENSE #1032 OCEAN BOULEVARD**

Town Attorney Gearreald had prepared a memo in regards to #1032 Ocean Boulevard and had distributed them to the Board earlier in the day. Since the memo includes a lot of in-depth information the Board would like to have more time to review the document. It was suggested that the subject be added to the January 30<sup>th</sup> agenda.

### **4 – PARKING OPTIONS – HAMPTON BEACH**

It was suggested that this item be discussed on February 13<sup>th</sup> along with the other parking issues.

### **Old Business Continued**

Mr. Griffin asked if there is a meeting with the School Board. He said that Judy Park (Highway Safety Committee) called last week regarding an article in the newspaper that discussed a Town official meeting with the School Board. Mr. Barrington said that the only one he is aware of is a meeting with Mr. Gaylord and himself. They are planning on discussing a time table in regards to the spur project and roadway.

Mr. Griffin asked if the Town's volunteer committees and Boards could receive funding to assist paying for a secretary. He said that the citizens on these committees work very hard to benefit the community and they should receive assistance for their efforts.

Mr. Pratt addressed the information provided by Rockingham Community Action. The organization is the distributor of federal funds for people seeking heating fuel assistance. In previous years Rockingham Community Action requested approximately \$18,000 to \$20,000 from the Town, this year they are seeking \$25,000. Perhaps at the Deliberative Session the group will provide a more in-depth explanation of where the money is needed. The Board did not reconsider their recommendation for the petitioned warrant article.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1 – AD HOC APPROPRIATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION NOMINATIONS**

There were six applicants for the Commission.

The Board would like the Budget Committee to appoint one of their members to the ad hoc Appropriation Oversight Commission.

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to appoint Richard M. Glennon, Dick Paquin and Bob Frese to the ad hoc Appropriation Oversight Commission. Jerry Dignam and Jeff Little will be appointed as alternatives to the Commission. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Letters will be sent to the selected individuals notifying them of their appointment to the ad hoc Appropriation Oversight Committee. The Chairperson, Bob Casassa (Town Moderator) will be in charge of organizing the committee. Mr. Barrington will contact Mr. Casassa to determine how he will deal with the committee. A letter will be sent to the Budget Committee Chairman Mary-Louise Woolsey to inform her of the Commission and that Maurice Friedman (a member of the Budget Committee) has volunteered directly.

##### **2 – AUTHORIZE TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Pete McKinnon and Brad Jett addressed the Board. Mr. Jett will not be available to assist in recording and broadcasting the Deliberative Session on February 4. Mr. McKinnon said that it is vital that he has someone to assist him during the day. He suggested hiring Dale Ouellette from Edify Direct for \$1,000.

Mr. McKinnon also said that the Committee needs two more DVD recorders, teleprompter and other equipment for Channel 22 video production. The price is approximately \$11,000 for the needed equipment.

Mr. McKinnon would like to see Channel 22 receive technical help on a continual basis. He suggested hiring Mr. Jett for approximately 20 hours a week at a rate of between \$25-\$35 an hour to act as the Channel 22 Technical Assistant. Mr. Jett owns his own production company and he has years of experience in video recording and broadcasting. Mr. McKinnon believes that hiring Mr. Jett will enhance Channel 22 and enable the Committee to explore new avenues and produce more inviting, informative broadcasts.

The Channel 22 Special Revenue Fund has over \$100,000 available to support the station. The Committee requires authority to spend the money on equipment and personnel.

Mr. Moore suggested \$1,500 rather than \$1,000 to hire someone for the deliberative session.

The Channel 22 Committee received quotes from two different vendors for equipment. The price quotes were not received through a bid process. Mr. Barrington said that the formal bid process would need to be waived by that Board of Selectmen before the equipment could be purchased.

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to authorize the Channel 22 Committee to hire a Production Assistant for no more than \$1,500, for the deliberative session. In addition the Committee has authority to contract technical support during the year for a total of \$35,000. The Board also waived the bid process and authorized the new equipment expenditures for \$11,000. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

### **New Business – Continued**

Mr. Moore suggested that Police Chief Sullivan wait until February 20<sup>th</sup> to appear before the Board to discuss his vision and plans for the Department.

Mr. Moore inquired about the status of the dock. Mr. Barrington said that the plans are complete and there will be a bid process soon. The bid documents are in legal review and it is anticipated that construction will begin in the spring.

Mr. Griffin mentioned that the fiddler, Natalie MacMaster will be performing at the Music Hall stage on February 2. The cost is \$40 per person. The Hampton Recreation Foxwoods Casino will be held on March 23 from 7am to 7pm, cost is \$25 for residents or \$30 for non-residents. The National Girls and Women in Sports Night will be held on February 7 from 6pm-9pm at Marston School. There is also a Ski Trip to Gunstock planned (for Grades 6 through 8), on February 28 for a cost of \$40. There are a number of February vacation events such as Legos, Mad Scientist and a Baby Sitting course. For those interested in these events please contact the Recreation Department.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked for a copy of the operations and administrative duties for the Police Captains.

### **V. MINUTES – JANUARY 16, 2006**

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** to accept the January 16, 2006 minutes as presented. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 4 FOR  
ABSTAINED – Mr. Moore**

### **VI - CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** to approve the Return of the Warrant. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

## **VII - PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bonnie Searle asked for clarification in regards to the employer contributions for retirement. Mr. Barrington mentioned that employees contribute to the retirement plan as well. In addition, Mr. Barrington said that if these projected rates are certified then the Town will be responsible for paying that amount.

Mrs. Searle said that she noticed Winnacunnet High traffic using the entrance as an exit since the outgoing gate was closed. She urged that enforcement be maintained in this area.

She also discussed the Local Government Center (LGC). Mr. Barrington said that the Town pays \$13,000 a year to belong to the LGC. She does not believe that being a member of the LGC is useful to citizens as she has seen the organization lobby against what she believes to be the best interests of taxpayers. She urged the Board to investigate the various political positions of the LGC and provide Mr. Barrington with some direction.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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Chairman